

Clinical or Community Partnerships

Midwestern State University

Vernon College

United Regional Medical Center

MSU, Vernon College and United Regional collaborated on the development of a Regional Simulation Center (RSC) to provide competency education and validation for health professional

students and hospital employees. The primary goal of the project was to increase the number of students admitted to the BSN and ADN programs in the project. Funded by a NIG-P grant from the THECB, the RSC was equipped with four adult and three child high-fidelity patient simulators. The center was located in a 3, 410 square foot renovated nursing unit at the partnering hospital and staffed with an MSN prepared Director, four BSN prepared lab mentors (faculty extenders), and clerical and computer technology support. The center has been operational since January 2005 and has had in excess of 15,000 learner visits since its opening. Competence education and validation for both students and hospital staff is accomplished through participation in scenario-based high fidelity patient simulation.

Approximate cost of implementing and maintaining partnership: \$350,000 annually

Grant monies used: yes, THECB NIGP-D grant

Expected benefits from partnership:

- collaboration among the hospital and schools of nursing provides opportunity to clarify expectations of competency of new graduates
- provides the learner with the opportunity to work with high risk patient situations in a safe environment
- cost-effectiveness of the RSC was demonstrated, excluding the cost of the equipment
- use of faculty extenders in a simulation center can support the increase in admissions to a nursing program
- simulation is effectively increases students' sense of competence

Challenges from partnership: none listed

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Partnerships with Other Nursing Programs

**Midwestern State University
Vernon College**

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- collaboration among the hospital and schools of nursing provides opportunity to clarify expectations of competency of new graduates
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- cost-effectiveness of the RSC was demonstrated, excluding the cost of the equipment
- use of faculty extenders in a simulation center can support the increase in admissions to a nursing program
- simulation effectively increases students' sense of competence

Challenges from partnership: none listed

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North Texas Consortium of Schools

Baylor University
Brookhaven College
Collin County Community College
El Centro College
Grayson College
Midwestern State University
North Central Texas College

Southwest Adventist University
Tarleton State University
Tarrant County College
Texas Christian University
Texas Woman's University
Trinity Valley Community College
University of Texas at Arlington

North Texas Consortium

The North Texas Consortium of Schools, led by Dr. Poster at UTA, has been meeting several years regarding pertinent issues. The group worked with the DFW Hospital Council and AHEC developed the community standard for drug testing, background checks and a universal hospital orientation. Each school worked on developing projects for competency testing which will be shared with all Texas schools. TNA is working with the group in order to distribute the information. The Consortium has held three summer institutes for faculty development.

Approximate cost of implementing and maintaining partnership: variable

Grant monies used: none

Expected benefits from partnership:

- schools have contributed for the summer institutes and for the development of the competency projects.

Challenges from partnership:

- none identified

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West Texas Consortium of Schools

Cisco Community College
El Paso Community College
Midwestern State University
Odessa College
South Plains College

Texas Tech University Health Science Center
University of Texas at El Paso
Vernon College
West Texas A & M University

West Texas Consortium

The project is still in development; however, the premise is as follows:

- regionalize the admissions process for entry into generic programs (ADN and BSN). Students will maintain the freedom to choose the program that they want to attend, but if they are unable to be admitted to their program of choice, they can be made aware of possible openings in other schools in the West Texas region.
- develop a Regional Retention Initiative
- develop a seamless curriculum from ADN to BSN and possibly to MSN/Nurse Educator for all students in a transition programs, including LVNs

Approximate cost of implementing and maintaining partnership: unknown at this time

Grant monies used: yes, THECB grant

Expected benefits from partnership:

- improved retention and graduation rates in all generic programs, including a measurement of success of retention strategies
- improvement of NCLEX scores
- development of admission criteria for initial license programs that predicts success
- decrease duplication of resources with a regional admission process
- provide avenues for admission possibilities throughout the consortium schools as slots may remain vacant that could be filled by applicants
- provide faculty development for consortium faculty in the areas of cultural competence, simulation, new pedagogies, and technology
- design new models for resource sharing in the areas of tuition dollars, simulation laboratories, faculty teaching expertise, curriculum sharing and hospital partnerships
- develop an RN to BSN curriculum relevant to the practice arena for nursing in West Texas with particular focus on rural border and rural non-border nursing, as these are the regions with the highest vacancy rates in the state

Challenges from partnership: none identified

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